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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)/Yugoslavia/Czechoslovakia/Austria/Poland

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SOURCE

1. The Silesia area located in Soviet Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Poland is a very rich coal basin, mostly anthracite. The coal is not as good as the Ruhr coal, but is an excellent coal. Veins lay horizontally and are not too deep; therefore, they are easy to mine. The known reserves will last for at least a hundred years and possibly more at the present production rates.

2. There is excellent coking coal in the southern part of the basin on the Czech border. This coal contains 16 thousand British Thermal Units (BTUs) per pound. It is without question the best coking coal in Europe. After Hitler took possession of Czechoslovakia, he banned the use of this coal for export. Coal in the northern part of this area is not as hard, but it is still good. The German expression for this coal is steinkohle which means rock hard coal. Its consistency is between anthracite and bituminous. In Ostrava the yearly coal production is very close to 20 million long tons. Production in the rest of the coal area is several times this figure.

3. There is a brown coal region in Pommern east of Berlin. The seams of the brown coal are much thicker than the seams of steinkohle and will run up to 50 feet thick. Production of brown coal is much greater than the hard coal but the BTUs are lower requiring nearly twice the amount of brown coal to equal the BTUs of the steinkohle.

4. In Soviet Germany there are great quantities of lignite which is the youngest coal and looks like wood. It can be cut with a knife, and its BTUs are approximately one-half that of the brown coal. The production tonnage of lignite is very large because the Soviets permit only the use of lignite for home use. Brown coal runs in quality from eight thousand BTUs per lb to $11\frac{1}{2}$ BTUs per lb. Brown coal running 10 thousand BTUs or higher is classed as high quality and anything less is low quality. If lignite is included in the brown coal reserve estimate there are 10 tons of the low quality to one of the high quality. If lignite is excluded this ratio is three to one. The German measurement of heat is by calories per kilo rather than by BTUs.

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5. I have heard the name "Salzkohle" used when referring to coal in the salt fields. The seams of coal in the salt fields are mined with the salt. Salzkohle is a young coal.

6. Soviet Germany is using low quality brown coal because the use of all coal is controlled by the Soviets who take the better coal for their own use. The Soviet explanation of this policy to the countries involved is that the best products are needed in order that the people can be assured of liberty and protection. In Soviet Germany where there is nothing left but inferior grades of coal after the Soviets have taken the best, information pertaining to the use of low quality coal is restricted because the government is afraid for such information to be publicized; reports which are made public are falsified. The Soviet German Government is taking whatever steps necessary to keep the truth about Soviet exploitation of their resources from the people.

7. The Communist-controlled countries do not possess natural gas and oil; therefore, coal is used almost exclusively. Inasmuch as coal is the main source of power, it means much more to the people of these countries than it does to the people of the US.

8. There is a noticeable increase in the production of "briquettes." Brown coal and lignites can be briquetted by means of a process involving high pressure at about two thousand atmospheres. The pressure used is 29 thousand lbs per square inch and these pressure briquettes can be made without a binder. A policy of using more briquettes is in force in Soviet Germany and Czechoslovakia. Also, briquettes are more easily transported than coal. Briquette stations (factories) are being built in the brown coal and lignite area. The Vitkovické Zelezarny of Ostrava built 14 briquette stations in 1949 in just the Czechoslovak coal fields. This may be used as a scale for Soviet Germany where many briquette stations are being built.

9. Synthetic fuel plants normally use brown coal having eight and one-half to nine thousand BTUs per lb. Brown coal is used because there is not enough steinkohle available after the Soviets have filled their demand.

10. Soviet Germany could create an iron industry by the use of brown coal because it has its own process of making a good coke from brown coal. The West German industry has built three coking plants in Yugoslavia which make hard coke from brown coal. These three coking plants were built especially for the Yugoslav steel industry and they are quite successful.

11. Poland will use the coal from the recently acquired deposits in Germany for trading purposes. The coal in these deposits is an average of approximately one thousand feet deep and is not too difficult to mine. This will facilitate Poland in meeting a goal of a hundred million long tons per year.

12. Czechoslovakia, Austria, Germany, and Yugoslavia use similar methods of transporting coal to the surface of the ground. In the better mines the mined coal is transported by means of chain conveyors to belt conveyors and then to hoists. Two types of hoists are used - cage and bucket - which bring the coal to the surface. In Germany the most modern mines prefer to push the coal with plows to the chain conveyors. However, this is done in only a few of the most modern mines. Most of the mines in Czechoslovakia, Austria, Germany, and Yugoslavia hand shovel the coal to the chain conveyors. Cage hoists are used only where mine cars are used underground. In the larger and most modern mines, 10-ton buckets are used when the coal is brought to the shafts by conveyors. The Germans have developed a type of hoisting which is superior to any hoist [redacted] the US. This is because coal is not as deep in the US so it has not been necessary to develop better hoists, but in Germany most of the coal must be hoisted. 50X1-HUM

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13. Germany and Czechoslovakia are modernizing their mines faster than Austria and Yugoslavia. I would estimate that 75% of the production of coal in Germany and Czechoslovakia comes from the modern mines. Austria does little in coal production as compared to Czechoslovakia, Germany and Yugoslavia. Yugoslavia is now [1953] modernizing, but not yet to the extent of Germany and Czechoslovakia. I would estimate that not quite 50% of Yugoslavia's coal production is from modern mines. Of the coal mining methods used in the four countries, conveyors, both chain and belt, are the most common. Ropes and buckets are used only in the old mines. Mine cars are used in some mines and continuous dumping is also used. Ninety per cent of the coal produced in the four countries is washed with water by jigging and by vibration. Some coal is washed by a pneumatic process and compressed air.

14. Coal is graded into five sizes: Large, medium, nut, pea size and dust. Flight or apron conveyors are used for washing the large sizes. Belt conveyors are used for nut and smaller sizes. Seventy per cent of the coal produced is graded as to size by shakers, and the balance is graded by vibrating screens. In smaller mines, the large pieces are hand picked. The small sizes are washed by water but the percentage of this type of operation is very small.

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735.1 27M
735.1 55M
4/735.1 27M
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735.7 4M/C
735.7 27M
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735.2 80M
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